

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
December 18, 2013

PRESENT

James Eardley, County Commission
Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
Jeff Turek, Washington City Council
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Dave Glenn, Ivins City
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
William Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Dana Meier, UDOT
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Dean Cox, Washington County
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley welcomed all members and said that no quorum existed as yet. He asked Rick Torgerson if he had a proxy from Naghi Zeenati for voting purposes, and Rick said he did not. Myron said that no mention is made in the Bylaws for proxy voting, and perhaps that is something that should be considered. Kyle Gubler said that he is representing the Mayor of LaVerkin with voting power.

If there is no quorum attained during the meeting, action items will be voted upon by those present, and Chairman Eardley will make the necessary phone call(s) to absent voting members to obtain their vote(s).

MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2013

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Hart to Approve the Minutes from the November 20, 2013, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Turek and carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Chair/Vice Chair Nominations and Election

Mayor Hart suggested leaving things the way they are. Chairman Eardley said that he

is still undecided about running for re-election next year, so he may only have one year remaining on this committee.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Hart to Re-Appoint James J. Eardley as Chairman of the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilman Turek and carried by unanimous vote.

Matt Ence, who was the Vice Chair for 2012-2013, will no longer be on the Santa Clara City Council as of the first of the year.

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Turek to Appoint Mayor Hart as Vice Chair of the Dixie Transportation Executive Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2015. Motion seconded by Councilman Hughes and carried by unanimous vote.

B. Programming of TIP funds

Mr. Lee distributed the Draft 2014-19 Dixie MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), dated Dec. 4, 2013. The Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that we add funding as is highlighted in yellow on the page.

- Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) that had been programmed for the Bluff St./Blvd. Red Hills Parkway project has been eliminated and can be re-programmed to another project.
- Old Highway 91, Swiss Village Santa Clara to 200 East in Ivins has received MPO funding in the past. DTAC added \$800,000 of federal funding for STIP year 2016; the \$145,232 local match will be split between Ivins and Santa Clara.
- Continue to fund \$150,000 per year to the ITS/AMTS St. George City deployment, which provides for fiber optics signals
- Continue funding \$150,000 per year of small urban monies to the continuing program grant that gives us the ability to do the River Road study, the Mall Drive Underpass study, the Telegraph Road study, etc.
- DTAC suggests funding the environmental portion of the study of Purgatory Road, which would connect State Route 9 to Washington Dam Road, for STIP year 2015
- Fund \$2.2 million for River Road between Ft. Pierce and Brigham Road; the project would make lanes consistent throughout that span.

These recommendations were made after concept reports were studied by the technical staff and prioritized.

MOTION: Motion by Councilman Hughes to Adopt the Recommendations of the DTAC and Approve the 2014-19 Dixie MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Motion seconded by Mayor Hart and carried by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Local Option Tax (Status Review)

Kyle Gubler said that the city council of LaVerkin unanimously passed the resolution in support of the Local Option Tax.

Dean Cox reported on the presentation to the City Council of Hurricane, where the reception was not particularly friendly. Both the Mayor and Mayor-Elect expressed reservations about supporting any new tax, saying that they are already supplementing the B & C Road Fund. It was agreed that a presentation in a work-meeting setting might be better received than in an official city council meeting.

Other presentations, to the city councils of Leeds, Toquerville, Ivins, and Santa Clara, are scheduled for next month.

The discussion returned to the formula used to determine what each county will ultimately pay, and Mayor Hart reiterated that if it is based on a percentage, it isn't fair for Washington County to pay a higher dollar amount because the price of gas is higher here than elsewhere. Myron said that they look at one number statewide, not per county, and base the percentage on that number. They will take an annual average gas price at the refinery or distributor throughout the entire state and put the 3% tax on that figure.

B. BLM Status on Resource Management Plan (RMP)

Myron Lee said that the BLM has given its draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) to other cooperating agencies for review before it goes out for public comment in the spring of 2014. The County and MPO are preparing a response to the RMP which include four alternatives: A, B, C and D. The Northern Corridor is only listed in D; A is the "do-nothing" and B and C are somewhere between "do-nothing" and "do everything wrong." The responses mainly state that the Northern Corridor should also be included in alternatives B and C.

The BLM and MPO have different interpretations of the RMP, so all objections to the BLM's interpretation should be clearly stated in our responses. Mr. Cox said that the

law directs the BLM to identify one or more alternatives for the Northern Corridor; the BLM says it only has to identify a Northern Corridor in one alternative, and the County insists on an identification in “one or more” alternatives. Unfortunately, the language is somewhat ambiguous.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Mr. Torgerson reported that the Divergent Diamond Interchange is now open and functioning smoothly. Landscaping and other final touches should be complete within a few more weeks. Paving work continues on Segment 3A of the Southern Parkway, weather permitting. Segment 4A between Washington and Hurricane is close to being open, with ribbon cutting scheduled for January 8th.

Mr. Torgerson said that the I-15 corridor continues to be problematic in terms of accidents, particularly behavior-caused accidents. A primary seat-belt bill may make its way through the legislature, authorizing traffic stops solely on the basis of failure to use seat belts.

Red Hills Interchange is out to bid at this time, and UDOT is still looking at solutions for the St. George Boulevard/Bluff Street project.

OTHER BUSINESS

No items were presented.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: January 15, 2014

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Christine Hall